

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 11, 16, 47 and 48 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Babbitt `195 while claims 7 and 22 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Babbitt `195 in view of Daniel et al. `570. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory and obviousness rejections in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 41-45 are allowable over the prior art while claims 2-6, 9, 10, 12-15 and 17-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 17 and 18 are amended into independent form so that those claims are now in allowable form along with allowed claims 41-45, while claims 1, 16, 23-29 and 31 - 40 and 46 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, from this application. As claims 4-8, 11-15, 19-22, 47 and 48 are all dependent from one of now allowable claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 17 and 18, those dependent claims are also allowable as well.


In view of the above claim cancellations and amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

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In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Bujold", is written over the typed name and contact information.

Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018

Customer No. 020210

Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

112 Pleasant Street

Concord, NH 03301-2931

Telephone 603-226-7490

Facsimile 603-226-7499

E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com